



Nevada Early Intervention *Fall–Winter* Family Newsletter

November – December 2018 Volume 8 No 6

Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral... Happy Holidays!!!



Dan, Eric, and Cheryl

Dear Parents/Families,

As parents of a child with multiple disabilities we have found it to be helpful to have a good understanding of the laws meant to support us.

Natural environments are places that include the same activities and routines that children of similar ages without disabilities take part in, a place where a child without a disability would normally be found. The law requires all children from birth to 36 months receive ALL of their early intervention (EI) services in a natural environment, except where there is a justifiable reason for not doing so.

Activities might take place at home or other places the family and the child go during the course of their everyday lives. An EI service provider helps parents adapt daily routines and activities. It can be home, daycare, the park, but it is not a place created just for children to receive early intervention services, which would not be a natural environment.

The service provider may bring in toys or adaptive equipment but most often

uses items in your home or in places where you would normally be with your child. When a family is in a familiar and comfortable environment, the child can play the way they usually would play. By observing your child in a natural environment, the service provider can help your child meet outcomes under your Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The service provider can also support your child's caregiver if your child goes to child care.

Most research shows that children learn best in natural environments, and that parents are their children's natural teachers as they grow. It has also shown that children gain skills faster when taught in a natural environment by people they know.

Read your Parent Handbook for further information and refer to it often.

If you have questions contact us at: ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

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To receive the newsletter electronically contact us!
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Dear Parents/Families,

An invitation to attend...

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Nevada's **ICC** was set up to advise and assist Nevada in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. It is especially important to hear from families and we encourage you to participate. Selected dates for the next few meetings:

Thursday—October 18, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (video conference)

Thursday—January 17, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. (video conference)

Where: usually via video conference in Carson, Elko, Las Vegas and Reno.

Always check the meeting agendas for locations, times and changes—posted at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/>

The ICC bylaws and membership can be viewed at

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Home/>

under "Who is on the ICC?", click on **Current Membership**.

For information contact us at ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or 1-800-522-0066

CONGRATULATIONS!!! For the third year in a row the U.S. Department of Education has determined that Nevada Early Intervention meets the requirements and purposes of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The 2018 determination of meets requirements is the highest of four possible performance levels. It is a credit to everyone in Nevada who works to ensure supports are available to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The letter of acknowledgment can be accessed at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Publications/>

Early Intervention Program Highlight

NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (NEIS) SOUTH

Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) South serves families with children ages birth to 3 years with delays or disabilities in the Southern Nevada counties spanning Clark, Nye, Esmeralda, and Southern Lincoln. Since July 2003, NEIS South has been committed to embedding families into their communities so that families will have a support system that will continue through their child's lifespan.

Families are assigned to a team of early intervention professionals that will support each family's access to needed services through a person-centered approach. NEIS South program staff are comprised of over 150 state and contract employees who provide health care and education services, including:

Assistive technology	Physical Therapy
Audiology	Speech Language Pathology
Intensive Behavioral Services	Service Coordination
Nutrition	Special Instruction
Occupational therapy	Vision

NEIS South provides these unique, specialty clinics for children with special health needs:

- Autism Clinic
- Craniofacial Clinic
- Genetics Clinic
- Metabolic Clinic

NEIS South is proud to partner with families as children grow, develop and learn in the context of relationships with their families and other caregivers in everyday routines, activities, and community settings. Anyone who has concerns about a child's development should encourage the child's parents or guardians to contact:

Nevada Early Intervention Services
1161 S. Valley View Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89102
Referral Line Phone Number: (702) 486-9200



NEIS Staff providing inclusive developmental group services at Family to Family Connection, Cambridge Community Health Center in Las Vegas, NV.

Been there, done that!



"The two things I have gained most from serving on the ICC are a sense of community, and the capacity to make change in my children's lives and at a local level.

When I was first appointed to the ICC I felt as though I was going through the motions of Early Intervention Services: being present at therapy sessions, carting my troop of kiddos (3 at the time) to doctor's appointments, and complying with all the recommendations given to me. As I became more involved as a board member, I learned a lot more about NEIS, the services I could request, and how to make the most of our time there. I learned to ask questions and make requests. However, it quickly became more than just ensuring my own kids had the best opportunities, and more about effecting change in the system itself.

The ICC also supports parent representatives in attending disability-related conferences. This experience is what really fostered my passion for advocacy. I met parents from other states and learned what was working for their children and how Early Intervention functioned elsewhere. I brought the information I gathered at these conferences back to influence the program locally. Most importantly, my children have watched me become a powerful advocate and, consequently, are becoming strong advocates for themselves. I am so thankful to be part of such a great committee that is always open to listening to parents and supporting them." ~ Aimee Hadleigh, ICC Parent Representative

DEC Recommended Practices: TEAMING & COLLABORATION — Early childhood staff that work with your family work as a team. YOU are an important member of this team. You are the most knowledgeable person about your child, your family, and what you want to see happen to help your child learn and grow. As a team member, it is important to share information about your child during your child's evaluation and assessment and to identify what you want to work on with your child. Helping to develop your child's intervention plan—the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Plan (IEP)—is also important. Your interactions with other team members provide opportunities to try out ideas, make suggestions, and provide feedback about what is or is not working. This practice guide includes different things that can help you be involved actively and meaningfully with other team members. This guide also includes a video.

http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/decrp/PG_TC_ParticipatingonYourChildsTeam_family_print_2017.pdf

Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative: By Parents, for Parents—It's all the insider information about Nevada's Early Intervention Services System in one common place. This project consists of a parent **Facebook** (www.nvparents.com/fb) support page for families with children in Early Intervention Services, information to give parents the basic knowledge they need to access and utilize services effectively, and a website that shares with everyone. **Early Intervention Parents Nevada** is a place for all parents of children with disabilities to connect. Please post your personal stories, questions about your child's development and/or disability, questions about Early Intervention programs, great parenting articles you've come across, community resources and events at

www.nvparents.com

The Early Intervention Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (Subject to review & editing.)



— For Families & Professionals —

FREE LENDING LIBRARY



There are a great many things to learn... check them out!!!

Catalog at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Special-Ed-Library/>

In the Library—Family/Professional Skills Building!!!

Parents and Professionals Partnering for Children With Disabilities: A Dance That Matters, Revised — Cultivate effective partnerships between parents and professionals. Written from both the parent's and the professional's points of view, this book draws upon the metaphor of dance to highlight the essential partnership between administrators, staff, and parents of children with disabilities. The book offers helpful steps for self-reflection, personnel preparation, and parent-professional training.

Leading By Convening: A Blueprint for Authentic Engagement — The formal leadership we most often experience is a top-down design grounded in authority and formal channels of influence. Yet, contemporary issues often demand another more informal kind of leadership—one that rises up from the bottom, from the stakeholders who are impacted by the decisions being made. There are strategies for partnership that builds connections and fosters authentic engagement through leading by convening.

Supportive Parenting: Becoming an Advocate for Your Child with Special Needs — Learn to take an active role in advocating for your child and helping to meet their needs. She explains for new parents how to look out for early signs that things aren't quite right, from procuring evaluations, to understanding what the diagnoses mean, to selecting therapies and therapists, to following through on therapies at home and targeting needs to be addressed.

The Early Intervention Guidebook for Families and Professionals: Partnering for Success — This practical guide is essential reading for both professionals and families of infants and toddlers with, or at risk for, developmental delays or disabilities. It focuses on how families and professionals can collaborate effectively so that young children learn, grow, and thrive.

Seven Essentials for Family Professional Partnerships in Early Intervention — Family-professional partnerships are essential to early intervention practice. This book provides a set of concrete practices for partnering, digging deeper and looking closer at what it takes to have successful relationships. The authors explore seven partnership concepts, through the words and perspectives of families and professionals themselves.

With hundreds of books and DVDs available for use statewide, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, send an email to ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

FREE! Partners in Policymaking Online Courses. . .

The goal of **Partners in Policymaking** is to educate participants to be active partners with those who make policy. Registration is free. *You'll only need to register one time* to have access to all the courses on this site on any computer or device.

Partners in Making Your Case

This two-hour self-study course is designed to help people with disabilities and their families create positive change through advocacy. The course helps participants understand the legislative process, the essential elements of good advocacy, identify and research personal issues, then advocate for systems change as individuals and as part of larger community efforts. For more information and to register:

<http://partersonlinecourses.com/>

Project ASSIST is Nevada's early intervention **Central Directory** for anyone seeking information about organizations, programs or agencies that may provide services and supports for young children with disabilities or delays, and their families. The Early Childhood Special Education Library is also a part of the Central Directory. It is a federal requirement that every state participating in Part C of IDEA have a Central Directory specifically for families in early intervention services. The purpose of the Central Directory is to provide information, research for resources, and referral services to inform and educate families of infants and toddlers with disabilities or special health care needs, and the general public, and to help improve outcomes for families and communities statewide. For information call **1-800-522-0066**, email ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov, or visit the website below.

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

A few of many resource sites listed with their links are located on the following page.

More Resources... More Information... More Opportunities...

Kids' Waivers is a national site for Medicaid waivers, Katie Beckett or TEFRA (The Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 is a federal law that allows states to make Medical Assistance (MA) available to certain children with disabilities without counting their parent's income.) programs, and other programs for children with disabilities or medical needs.

<http://www.kidswaivers.org/nv/>

Nevada PEP, is the statewide Parent Training and Information Center. For more information contact PEP statewide at **1-800-216-5188** or visit their website at:

www.nvpep.org/

Nevada Children's Medical Home Portal is a web-based source of medical professional health information designed to be a "one-stop-shop" for families, physicians and other caregivers.

<https://nv.medicalhomeportal.org/>

Nevada's **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)** serves "...children who have or are at risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally". Visit their website at <http://dphh.nv.gov/Programs/CYSHCN/CYSHCN-Home/>

Nevada Dual Sensory Impairment Project's purpose is to enhance educational services and provide technical assistance to support parents, services providers, and other service agencies in meeting the educational needs of children and youth, birth through 21 years, who have dual sensory impairments—diagnosed with both vision and hearing impairments. <https://www.unr.edu/ndsip/>

Family TIES directs **Nevada's Family-to-Family Healthcare Information and Education Center** and provides statewide support to families of children and youth with special health care needs. Call **1-866-326-8437** or visit <http://www.familytiesnv.net>

Nevada Hands & Voices is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as the professionals who serve them.

<http://www.nvhandsandvoices.org/>

Family Resource Centers (FRCs), located around the State, provide support, information, and referrals for individuals and families in need of assistance in accessing services and programs that will strengthen and support the family. To find an FRC, call: **(702) 486-3527** (Las Vegas) or **(775) 684-4000** (Carson City)

http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Programs/FRC/Family_Resource_Center/

The **Autism Coalition of Nevada (ACON)** is comprised of representatives from various autism advocacy organizations, agencies and professionals who serve Nevadans with Autism Spectrum Disorder and related Neurodevelopmental Disorders throughout our state. <http://www.aconv.org/>

MedlinePlus.gov - the National Institutes of Health's website providing information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues, a medical encyclopedia, extensive information on prescription and nonprescription drugs, health news, and much more. Also in Spanish.

<https://medlineplus.gov/>

Cerebral Palsy Parent Network (CPPN) of Nevada parents are constantly seeking new and practical ways of making the world around our children more inclusive and accessible.

<https://www.facebook.com/cppnreno>

Nevada's Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) was created to assist parents and caregivers with the expensive cost of providing Autism-specific treatments to their child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

<http://adsd.nv.gov/Programs/Autism/ATAP/ATAP/>

Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada (DSOSN) promotes a positive understanding of Down syndrome in the community and is a source of support, information and education for families and individuals affected by Down syndrome. <http://www.dsosn.org/>

Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada (DSNNN) is a network of individuals with Down syndrome, their parents, families and friends, offering support, direction, services and resources to individuals and families affected by Down syndrome. <http://dsnnn.org/>

EI program information > http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:**

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:**

- **Community Play groups** every 2nd & 4th Friday, of each month. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. For more information: 775-825-4744.

⇒ **Easterseals Nevada—Reno:**

- **Please join us at our next Discover Your Way**—The Discover Your Way program is specifically designed to meet the needs of children on the Autism Spectrum and with sensory and/or perception disorders. Admission is free for members, and remains the same for each Discover Your Way event at \$10 per child (1-17) or senior (65+), and \$12 per adult (18+).

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:**

- **NEIS Trick or Treat Family Event! October 23, from 4-6 pm.**
- **NEIS Children’s Winter Party with Santa! December 6, from 4-6 pm.**
- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Call to RSVP: 775-823-9500
- **Friends of Special Children** - This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested, contact Gretchen Canepa at 688-0303 or GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov.
- **NEVADA Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 3rd Thursday of every other month on the “odd” months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: info@nvhandsandvoices.org

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Reno:**

- **Inclusive Developmental Play Group** at Early Head Start. Call Melissa McGovern at: 775-525-4072.

⇒ **The Continuum—Reno:**

- **Baby Fair & Diaper Derby** - free event sponsored by Reno Media Group, Saturday, November 10th, Reno Sparks Convention Center: Join the Continuum as we celebrate with new and expectant parents! Contact Sarah for more information (775) 737-8753.
- **Carousel Kids** is an inclusive childcare program. We also offer an intergenerational experience with elders from our onsite adult day program. For more information or to schedule a tour, phone: 775-829-4700.
- **Literacy Land**—FREE! Gently used books for children birth-5 years. Or donate to our lending library. Meet, mingle, borrow, share, read, enjoy with your friends at the Continuum! Also, look for our collection bins around town! For further information, please call the Continuum’s Early Intervention department at (775) 221-8054 or email at info@continuumreno.com . Visit us at continuumreno.com

SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Easterseals Nevada—Las Vegas:**

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jodie Sipes at: 702-860-4914

⇒ **Kideology—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:**

- **Yoga & Literacy Group** at Family to Family Connection, Cambridge Community Center: This biweekly class combines exercise and early literacy for young children. Interested families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Explore & Learn Developmental Playgroups in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson**—Weekly, inclusive community playgroups include engaging, age-appropriate peer activities for families of infants and toddlers with diverse abilities to support child development. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Sign Language class at University Medical Center (UMC)**—NEIS staff provide this bi-weekly parent education class on communication skills using sign language to promote understanding between toddlers and their families. All members of the family are welcome to attend. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.

⇒ **Positively Kids—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Las Vegas:**

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, starts at 6:30pm, at East Las Vegas Community Center located at 250 N. Eastern Ave.
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups.** Thursdays at Family to Family & UNLV Preschool. Contact Robbi Lucero at: 702-335-1666 or rlucero@tmgnv.com



Nevada’s Central Directory website, filled with information and resources, includes a “Links” page with all kinds of useful local, state, and national websites.

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

